



The Indianapolis Radio Club Newsletter

Founded 1914

March 2023 Newsletter

Upcoming:

April 14: Tim Duffy, K3LR, from DX Engineering presenting “Going forward for DXing Operations” VIA ZOOM

May 12: Dave Gingrich, K9DC, with "IRLP - Nuts and bolts, how to get on IRLP with your radio” VIA ZOOM

June 9: Annual Indianapolis Radio Club equipment auction. AT SALVATION ARMY EDS FACILITY

Highlights from the March Meeting:

Called to order at 7:30 pm at the Salvation Army EDS Facility by club president, David Spoelstra, N9KT. There were 33 in attendance. In attendance were new ham and member of the club, Paul Mills, KD9TSD, and Greg Bowsher, KD9KWA, first time attendee and “student” of Steve Wendt, KB9RDS.

In his announcements, David said that everyone should try to get on the air. Solar Solar conditions are great, especially on the higher bands.. David also announced that the Owen/Putnam State Forest 50/50 event is still needing a few hams, as is the Mini-Marathon, and later this year, the Indianapolis Air Show (see more later in this and future newsletters). David also mentioned the Picnic & POTA event coming up on July 29 at Ft. Harrison State Park. David announced that once again this year, the IRC is going to be one of the clubs participating in the Indy United Field Day event at Victor Conservation Club. He reminded folks that the Indiana QSO Party is coming up on

Saturday, May 6. He also requested anyone that has any suggestions for presentations, to email them to board@indyradioclub.org. Finally, David mentioned some ways that members can support the club:

- The Kroger Plus program.
- The ARRL Club Commission program.
- Remembering the club when making Required Minimum Distribution plans.
- Naming the club as a beneficiary in their wills.

Next, David introduced Mike Sercer, WA9FDO, for his presentation on the history of amateur repeaters in Indy. The first amateur repeater was K6GW in San Jose, California in 1954. It was a manned, AM repeater (not FM). It was made from surplus war radio gear, and only on the air for 2 months, due to having to be manned. In 1956, W6MEP put the first “unattended” repeater on the air from his home. In 1957, it was moved to the hill just above the “Hollywood” sign. This was still an AM repeater. In Indianapolis, the 146.34/.76 repeater was put on the air in 1968. It was a “split site” repeater, with the transmitter at WA9HNN, and receiver at K9CPT. This was due to the high cost of duplexers. The sites were linked via UHF. In 1970, the repeater was moved to the WISH tower, still as a “split system”, with the TX antenna at 150’ on the tower and the RX antenna at 180’. Then in October of 1971, the Central Indiana Repeater Association was formed to operate the repeater. In November of 1971, the 146.22/.88 repeater was added to the WISH tower by C.I.R.A., sharing the same antennas as the .76 repeater. Around this same time, the .76 repeater input was changed to the now standard 600 KHz split, at 146.16. In 1972, a donated StationMaster antenna was installed at the 300’ level of the WISH tower. In 1973, a homebrew duplexer made by K9WEI was installed. In 1974, a homebrew touchtone control system was installed. Also in 1974, the original tube radios were replaced with a Motorola solid state receiver and Regency transmitter. In 1978, a Spectrum repeater was added as a backup. In 1983, due to a change in ownership at WISH, the repeaters were moved to the Indiana State Police tower at 21st and Post.

Moving to the Indianapolis Repeater Association, the 146.70 started around 1969 by K9BAD, W9PEV, and WA9CYV, and was on the same WISH tower as the C.I.R.A. repeaters until 1983. In 1983, it moved to the WTHR tower at 300’. In the late 1980s, it was moved up to the 700’ level, and the 443.85 antenna was put at the 300’ level. The original 146.70 repeater was made from a modified mobile telephone repeater.

Moving to the Indianapolis Carmel Experimenters (ICE), the group was started by WB9HFU, WB9YCZ, and WB9OPR. Their first repeater was the 147.66/.06, and was put on the air in 1970, located on the WIRE-AM tower. Next came the 146.37/.97, in 1972 on a commercial tower in Carmel, followed by the 147.99/.39 in 1975, located at

920' on the WTHR tower. Four more ICE repeaters followed in the 1970s. The ICE group was the first to introduce digital voice repeaters to Indy, with D-Star, and also put a 900 MHz repeater network on the air. At its peak, the ICE group had 11 systems active, including the first telephone autopatch system in Indy put together by K9YDO, with the receiver on top of the Summit House, and the transmitter at his home in Broad Ripple. These sites were connected by a phone line, and the system was on his home phone line, so if his line was busy, so was the system.

Next was the RCA club's repeater. In 1973, CIRA gave up the 146.88 pair to RCA. They put together an all solid state system at the RCA plant on Sherman Drive, using 2 Heathkit 2 meter radios. When the plant closed in 1994, the repeater moved to Mike Koss' (W9SU - SK) station. There were two remote "voting" receivers added at Ivy Tech and RCA's North Meridian office, so whichever receiver had the strongest signal was used. In 2013, after Mike Koss passed, the 146.88 was taken off the air. It was moved to its current location of the Wayne Township Fire Department training center in 2014, and converted to GE radios. Later it was converted to the present Yaesu System Fusion system, with the GE as backup. In 1979, the RCA club put Indy's only RTTY repeater on the air. It was shut down in 1994, when the repeater was removed from Sherman Drive.

In 1985, KM9E and The Harrison Amateur Radio Club put a repeater on the roof of the Finance Center. The repeater was moved to the Lawrence PD tower not long after that. In 1996, it was moved to the Lawrence FD tower, and at one point had 3 remote receivers. In 2020, Lawrence took that tower down, and the ICE group offered KM9E the 442.65 site and repeater pair. Around the same time, the 443.25 was moved to the old WISH tower.

Amateur Television: In August 1979 an ATV repeater was put on the old WISH tower at 165'. A beacon of the channel 8 weather radar was on the air in September. In June of 1981, CIRA purchased an ATV repeater and installed it at 225'. The ATV system was used for the 1987 Pan Am Games. Activity increased throughout the 1990s, then dropped. The ATV system was decommissioned in 2010.

Paul Bohrer's W9DUU (SK) "Little Orange Box" repeater on 443.75. This was a repeater built into a "Paramedic Field Radio" style orange case. It was placed on the air in April of 1984 on the WTTV tower in Trafalgar. In 1996, it was moved to the WISH tower, the entire repeater was encased in a weather proof case and placed on the 750' platform. It was taken off the air in 2009, after Paul's death. In 2011 it was put back on the air by CIRA on the ISP tower. In 2015, a Yaesu System Fusion repeater replaced it on that repeater pair.

IPL Radio Club: In April of 1976 planning began for the city's first 6 meter repeater. In December of 1976, the repeater was put on the air with the antenna at 200' at Morris St. plant. Frequency of 53.2 in/52.6 out. In 1977, interference from R/C planes prompted a change in the input frequency to 52.84. The close spacing of TX and RX frequencies caused a move of the receiver to an IPL tower on Arlington, while the transmitter stayed at Morris St. The 2 sites were linked via IPL internal cable system. In 1995, the system was rebuilt from old IPL low band radio gear after the company moved to 800 MHz. It had a 300 watt base station at the Harding St. IPL tower, with the antenna at 300'. Frequency was changed to 51.7 input/52.7 output. At one point, there were 4 remote receivers at the four corners of the county, linked by IPL private fiber optic system. In 1995, the 146.67 repeater was added at Harding St.

Many thanks to Mike for this great presentation! Mike's PowerPoint slides can be found at <https://indyradioclub.org/TheHistoryofrepeaters.pdf>

Don Smith, N9BGW, won the drawing for a \$25 DX Engineering gift card. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Ham Radio News:

SKYWARN SPOTTER TRAINING CLASSES

Skywarn Spotter Training classes are still ongoing through April 25, including a couple of virtual classes. Go to <https://www.weather.gov/ind/spotter#train> to see the complete schedule of sessions for central Indiana.

OPSF 50/50 RACE NEEDING RADIO VOLUNTEERS

The Owen-Putnam State Forest 50/50 Race on March 25 needs Amateur radio operators. Contact Zach Minick KD9HIG@yahoo.com, Mobile 765-848-8378 to volunteer. There are two shifts: 7:00 am to 2:00 pm and 1:45 pm to the end of the race.

CARMEL MARATHON NEEDING RADIO VOLUNTEERS

The Carmel Marathon on Saturday April 8th needs Amateur radio operators. They will be near water stations on the marathon course. Water stations are typically manned for 2-3 hours depending on location. Time slots are available early in the morning from ~0700 through about 1400. Typically speaking most people are there for a couple of

hours. If you are interested in volunteering for this event, please contact Dallas Milem KD9TJH by email at KD9TJH@gmail.com

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR 500 FESTIVAL MINI MARATHON

This note was received from Brent Walls, N9BA:

“Please allow me to introduce myself. My name is Brent Walls and my amateur radio callsign is N9BA. I am coordinating amateur radio communications support for the 2023 500 Festival Mini Marathon on Saturday May 6th. This is one of the most iconic mini marathons in the nation and I need your help getting the word out to potential volunteers in your club. To fully support this event, we will need 70+ amateur radio operators.

Amateur radio operators will be stationed at pit stops (medical and water), at mile markers, the finish line area and other strategic locations. Our primary mission is to provide communications support to the medical and logistical operations for overall public safety. This is a great opportunity to showcase our capabilities to the 500 Festival, public safety partners and the general public.

I would like to ask you to share this opportunity with your club members and encourage them to consider volunteering to support this event. All they need is a dual band (VHF/UHF) radio capable of operating up to 6 hours (extra batteries). Most assignments will be handheld friendly as we will use local repeaters for most communications. The operational period for all amateur radio operators begins at 0630 and will be a staggered release no later than 1230.

Anyone interested in volunteering can use the link below to register as an amateur radio communicator for this event.

<https://forms.office.com/r/jM35QxffzD>

Anyone with questions can contact me directly by e-mail at bwalls5@outlook.com and I will be glad to answer their questions.

Regards,
Brent Walls N9BA”

ON-LINE EXTRA CLASS COURSE

The Western Mass. Train & Test Group would like to invite you to a FREE on-line course so you too can upgrade to the Extra Class Ham Radio License. The free On-Line classes will start Tuesday March 28th on Zoom. Classes will be Tuesday and Thursday Evenings starting at 7 PM. If interested, sign-up at <https://forms.gle/6KT2PCGFnibQdDDF7>
Contact Ray Lajoie with any questions via e-mail at ray.aalase@gmail.com

2023 HAMVENTION AWARD WINNERS ANNOUNCED

Jason McDonald, MD, N2TPA, received the Special Achievement Award for his work in promoting international friendship and community by forming scouting clubs in Canada, the Philippines, and Florida.

The Delaware Valley Radio Association (DVRA) won the Amateur Radio Club of the Year. It is an ARRL affiliated club formed in 1930 which serves the Trenton, NJ metro area. The club has tripled in size over the last six years.

Dr. James Breakall, WA3FET, won the Technical Achievement Award. He has teamed with many experts in the field to develop state of the art advancements with a wide range of applications. Now a retired Professor Emeritus, he serves as a consultant to the Army, Air Force and Navy on many antenna related projects.

Carsten Dauer, DM9EE, was awarded Amateur of the Year. Carsten has been active in European amateur radio through WRTC and YOTA for 30 years. Recently, he has spearheaded DM9EE-Helping Hands, a movement to provide amateur radio equipment to war torn Ukraine by collecting donations and delivering them personally to communities in Ukraine.

All the details on all of these award winners can be found at
<https://hamvention.org/event-details/awards/>

TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW FOR HAMVENTION

Advance sale tickets for Hamvention, May 19 through 21 in Xenia, OH are on sale now via the Hamvention website at <https://hamvention.org/purchase-tickets/>. Advance sale tickets are priced at \$26 each. Tickets at the gate will be \$30.

INDIANA ARES HF NET MOVING TO 40 METERS FOR SUMMER

Frequency will be on or around 7.272 MHz, starting at 5:00 pm Eastern Time.

UPCOMING CENTRAL INDIANA TESTING SESSIONS (check with sponsor before planning to attend)

Greenfield IN 46140-9654
Sponsor: Hancock County ARC
Date: Mar 18 2023
Time: 9:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)
Contact: David Keiser
(317) 440-8486
Email: kc9urp@hrtc.net
VEC: ARRL/VEC
Location: Hancock EMA EOC
640 South Franklin St
Greenfield IN 46140-9654

Anderson IN 46016-2238
Sponsor: Anderson Repeater Club
Date: Mar 21 2023
Time: 7:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)
Contact: Stephen M. Riley
(765) 425-4627
Email: wa9cwe@arrl.net
VEC: ARRL/VEC
Location: Madison County EMA EOC
200 N Delaware St
Anderson IN 46016-2238
Website: <http://www.andersonrepeater.club/>

Gas City IN 46933-1155
Sponsor: GCARC
Date: Mar 28 2023

Time: 5:00 PM (No Walk-ins / Register or Call ahead)
Contact: Mitchell D. Miller
(765) 661-5893
Email: mitchmiller55@gmail.com
VEC: ARRL/VEC
Location: EMA Building
3921 S Garthwaite Rd
Pre-register only, contact ahead
Gas City IN 46933-1155
Website: <http://www.grantarc.org/>

Columbus IN 47201-4384
Sponsor: SCICSG
Date: Apr 01 2023
Time: 9:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)
Contact: Michael D. Tanksley
(812) 350-5175
Email: kd9eau@gmail.com
VEC: LAUREL VEC
Location: Columbus North High School
1400 25th St
Columbus IN 47201-4384

Noblesville IN 46060-1624
Sponsor: Central Indiana ARA/ HCRACES
Date: Apr 08 2023
Time: 10:30 AM (No Walk-ins / Register or Call ahead)
Contact: Joseph March
(317) 224-9433
Email: jmarch54@att.net
VEC: ARRL/VEC
Location: Hamilton Cty Emer Operations Ctr
18100 Cumberland Rd
Sheriff's Campus Training Room
CALL AHEAD
Noblesville IN 46060-1624

Indianapolis IN 46218-2169
Sponsor: Indianapolis Radio club W9JP
Date: Apr 15 2023
Time: 12:00 PM (No Walk-ins / Register or Call ahead)
Contact: James K. Rinehart
(317) 721-1458
Email: testing@indyradioclub.org
VEC: ARRL/VEC
Location: Salvation Army EDS Training Facility
4020 Georgetown Rd
Indianapolis IN 46218-2169

Anderson IN 46016-2238
Sponsor: Anderson Repeater Club
Date: Apr 18 2023
Time: 7:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)
Contact: Stephen M. Riley
(765) 425-4627
Email: wa9cwe@arrl.net
VEC: ARRL/VEC
Location: Madison County EMA EOC
200 N Delaware St
Anderson IN 46016-2238
Website: <http://www.andersonrepeater.club/>

Columbus IN 47201
Sponsor: South Central Indiana Communications Support Group
Date: Apr 18 2023
Time: 6:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)
Contact: Michael D. Tanksley
(812) 350-5175
Email: kd9eau@gmail.com
VEC: LAUREL VEC
Location: East Columbus United Methodist Church Youth Center
2439 Indiana Ave
Columbus IN 47201

Gas City IN 46933-1155
Sponsor: GCARC
Date: Apr 25 2023
Time: 5:00 PM (No Walk-ins / Register or Call ahead)
Contact: Mitchell D. Miller
(765) 661-5893
Email: mitchmiller55@gmail.com
VEC: ARRL/VEC
Location: EMA Building
3921 S Garthwaite Rd
Pre-register only, contact ahead
Gas City IN 46933-1155
Website: <http://www.grantarc.org/>

FEEL FREE TO SHARE OUR NEWSLETTER

If you belong to any other radio groups, please feel free to share our newsletter with them. They can also sign up to be on our mailing list by filling out the form available at http://mail.indyradioclub.org/mailman/listinfo/ircnews_indyradioclub.org.

SEND ME YOUR HAM RADIO NEWS

If anyone has any items for the newsletter, please send them to Ken Bandy at kj9b@arrl.net

Signals from the Past:

From the March 19, 1973 *Indy Ham Radio Newsletter*:

RF affects the electronic fuel injection on VW and possibly other cars, so better be sure before you put your kilowatt in that VW or new Mercedes, 914 Porsche, SAAB, or Volvo, that every time you key the mike the engine may stop. Also the Sure-track electronic braking system of some cars may be affected by RF.

Upcoming Area Radio Events:

- Columbus Hamfest: April 1 at Columbus North High School Cafeteria. Go to <https://carcnet.net/> for more info.
- Henry County Hamfest: April 29 at the New Castle Armory. Go to <http://w9ob.org/> for more info.

2023 Officers:

- President: David Spoelstra, N9KT – president@indyradioclub.org
- Vice Pres.: Dave Miller, K9RTT - vp@indyradioclub.org
- Secretary/Treasurer: Ken Bandy, KJ9B - secretary@indyradioclub.org
- Dir. at large: Jim Rinehart, K9RU – board@indyradioclub.org
- Dir. at large: Kyle Bandy, KC9GLR - board@indyradioclub.org
- Dir. at large: Kevin Colbert, KD9MNB - board@indyradioclub.org
- W9JP Trustee: Jay Kraus, W9TC - w9jp.trustee@indyradioclub.org

To Pay Dues or Donate to the club, go to
<https://tinyurl.com/irc-dues-payment>

Or Scan this QR Code with your smart phone:

